



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20531

MAR 26 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

THROUGH: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL DW 4/26/09  
THROUGH: ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TJP 4/6/09  
FROM: Laurie O. Robinson  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
SUBJECT: Renewal of the Charter for the Medal of Valor Review Board  
PURPOSE: To obtain the Attorney General's approval to renew the Charter for the Medal of Valor Review Board.  
TIMETABLE: As soon as possible.

DISCUSSION: This memorandum requests your approval to renew the Charter for the Medal of Valor Review Board ("Board") as mandated by Congress under the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-12, 115 Stat, 20 (May 30, 2001). The Office of Justice Programs provides administrative support services to the Board pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. II. I have reviewed the attached charter and find it consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you sign the attached charter to approve the renewal of the Board's Charter. This action would give the Board a two-year period in which to operate.

APPROVE: [Signature]

DATE: May 7, 2009

DISAPPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

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## **Charter of the Medal of Valor Review Board**

### **A. Official Designation**

Medal of Valor Review Board (hereinafter, "the Board").

### **B. Authority**

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-12, 115 Stat. 20 (May 30, 2001) (hereinafter, "the Act").

### **C. Objectives and Scope of Activity**

The purpose of the Medal of Valor Review Board ("Board") is to present to the Attorney General, not more than once each year, the names of those it recommends as Medal of Valor recipients. The Medal of Valor is the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer, and is awarded annually by the President to public safety officers who have exhibited extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.

### **D. Timetable**

The Board shall determine and set an annual timetable for fulfilling its duties under the Act.

### **E. Reporting**

The Board shall report to the U.S. Attorney General, or to his or her designee.

### **F. Support Services**

The Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, shall provide all necessary support services for the Board.

### **G. Membership**

The Board shall be composed of 11 Members, each serving a 4 year term. Each Member must have knowledge of and expertise in, whether by experience or training, the field of public safety. Two Members each shall be appointed by the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate; two shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; two shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and three shall be appointed by the President, one must have experience in firefighting, one must have experience in law enforcement, and one must have experience in emergency services. Any vacancy in the membership of the Board shall not affect the powers of the Board and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

**H. Election and Term of Board Chairman**

The Board shall, by majority vote, elect a Chairman from among its Members. The term of the Chairman shall be 1 year.

**I. Duties**

The Board shall select candidates to receive the Medal of Valor from among those applications received by the National Medal of Valor Office. Not more often than once a year, the Board shall present to the U.S. Attorney General the name or names of those it recommends as Medal of Valor recipients.

**J. Operating Costs**

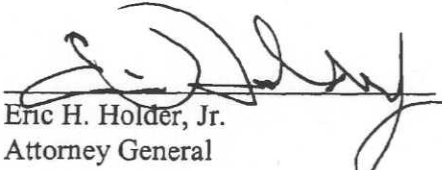
The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Board's functions are estimated to be \$124,500 per year. This estimate includes 10 percent of the cost of one full-time equivalent position supporting the activities of the Board, travel expenses, and compensation for each Board member.

**K. Meetings**

The Board shall meet at the call of the Chairman of the Board, not less than twice each year. All other conduct of the business of the Board shall be fixed by the By-Laws of the Board, or fixed in a manner provided by the By-Laws, so long as such rules of conduct are not inconsistent with the Act or other applicable law.

**L. Termination Date**

The existence of the Board is continuing in nature and will be required indefinitely with no fixed termination date. This Charter shall expire 2 years after its effective date and is subject to renewal.

  
Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General